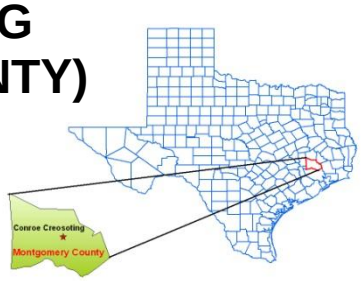
CONROE CREOSOTING (MONTGOMERY COUNTY) CONROE, TEXAS

EPA ID# TXD008091951
Site ID: 0601732



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 08

Contact: Gary Baumgarten
214-665-6749

Updated: November 2012

Background

The Conroe Site is a former wood-treating facility located at 1776 E. Davis Street, Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas. The former wood-treating facility occupies approximately 147 acres and operated from 1946 until March 1997. The Site is fenced and borders residential property to the east, State Highway 105 to the south, and forested land to the west and north. The facility consisted of two process areas, one tank area, two kilns, a re-work area, a vehicle maintenance shop, boiler, lumber shed, a pole machine, two fuel pumps, an office, a sales office, and a retail office along with several storage sheds and storage areas prior to a removal action conducted by the .

Three wood preserving processes were used at the facility, including pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, and copper chromated arsenate (CCA). The PCP and creosote wood preserving processes used pressure to force a solution of PCP or creosote dissolved in diesel into the wood. The CCA treatment process is water based and occurs at ambient pressures. The treated wood was then allowed to dry on a drip pad. Treatment residues from these processes were scraped from the drying pad for shipment off-site. The facility was closed down by the Montgomery County Tax Assessor/Collector in March 1997, due to delinquent taxes.

In September 2002, the EPA started a time-critical removal action of on-site structures and soils. All the contaminated material, soils, sediments, and solidified wastes were placed inside an on-site Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) vault. A total of 252,000 cubic yards of contaminated material was placed inside the vault.

The Record of Decision (ROD), signed on September 29, 2003, set forth the selected remedy for the site, which includes monitored natural attenuation of the contaminants in the groundwater, no further action for the on-site soils and offsite sediments, long-term maintenance of the RCRA vault, and placement of institutional controls.

Current Status

EPA began the long-term ground water monitoring program in November 2005 to assess the natural attenuation of pentachlorophenol in the shallow aquifer at a depth of 60 feet below ground surface. The landfill at the Site is marked with signs, locked gates, and security fencing. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed repairs to the landfill cover over the RCRA vault containing the contaminated soils and sediments from the site.

Benefits

The removal action addressed contamination above health-based levels at on-site and off-site locations, including Stewart's Creek and off-site drainage areas. The ground water investigation determined that contamination from the facility has only impacted the ground water beneath the facility and is not a threat to the surrounding private water supply wells. The long-term monitoring program will continue to monitor the contaminant levels in ground water.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: April 30, 2003
NPL Inclusion Final Date: September 22, 2003

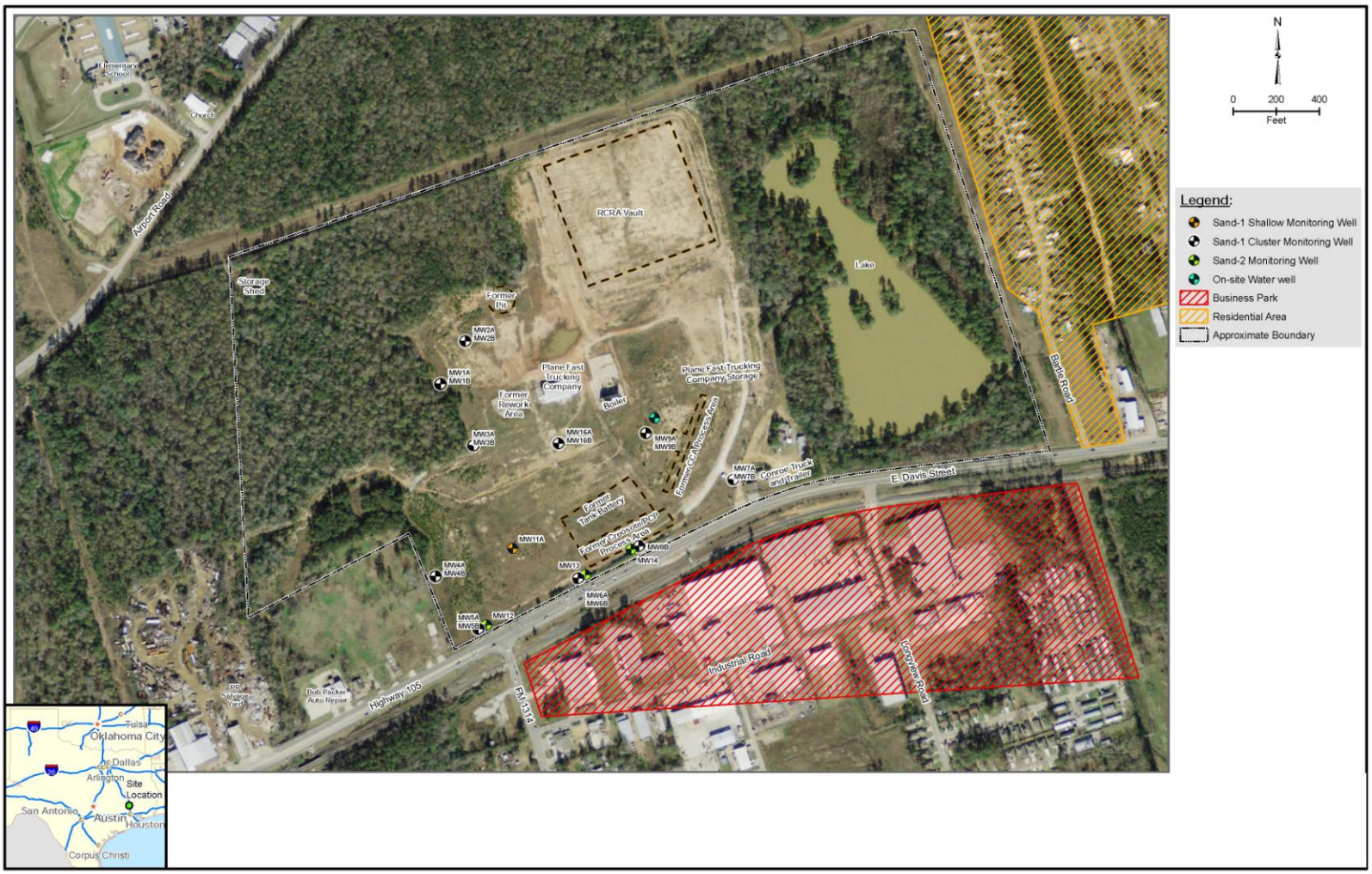
Location: The Site is located in Conroe, Montgomery County, approximately 30 miles north of Houston, Texas.

Population: Aproximately 15,000 people live within two miles of the site.

Setting: The site consists of 147 acres and is a former wood treating facility. There is a residential community to the east, a wooded area to the north, and commercial activities to the west and south. The shallow water-bearing zone is 60 feet deep and is currently not being used. The first water-bearing zone used for domestic supply is 125 feet deep. The City of Conroe water supply is 400 to 1000 feet below the surface.

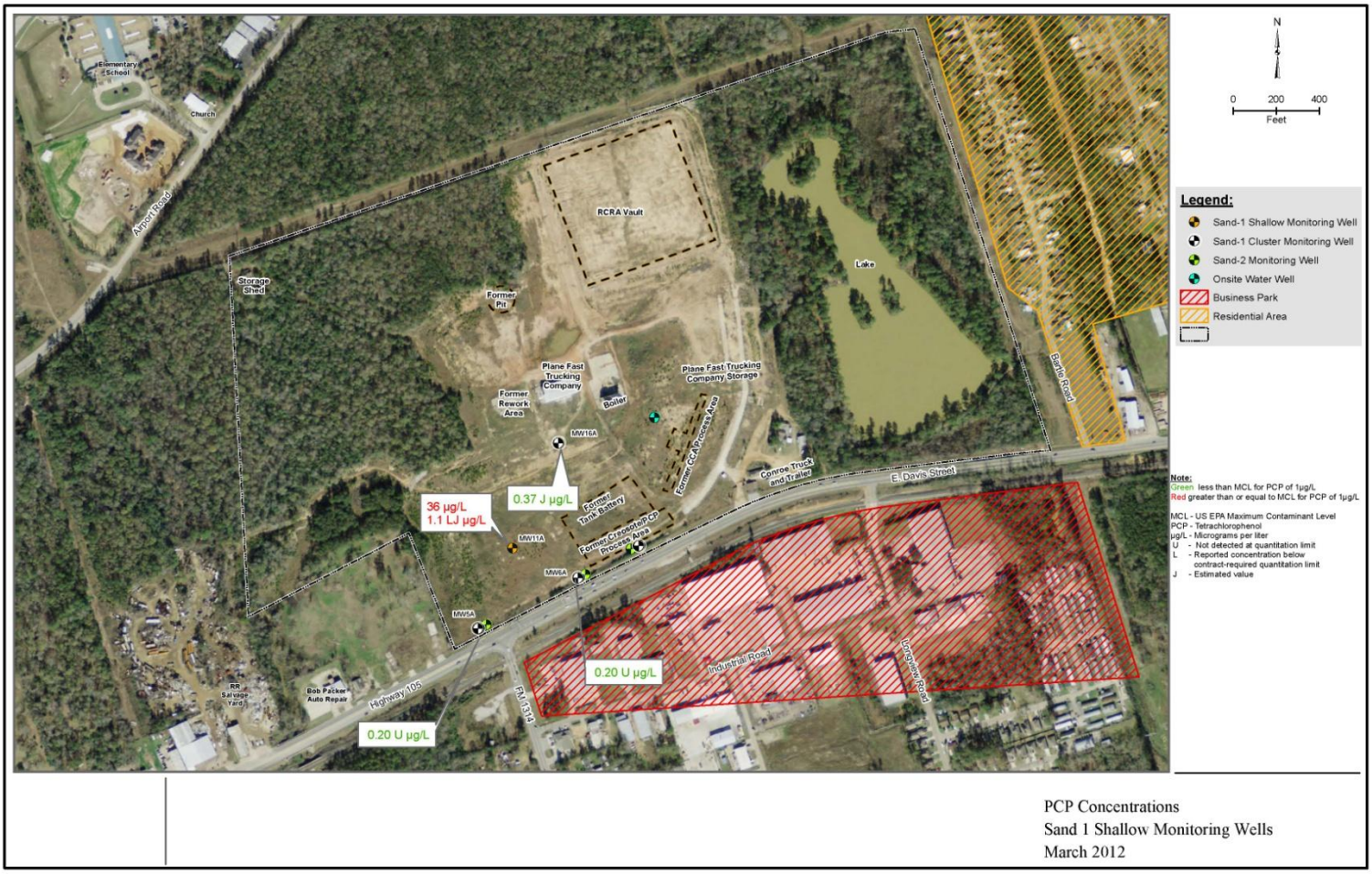
Site Map

The following map illustrates the site location on the east side of Conroe, Texas.



The following site map illustrates the PCP concentration levels in groundwater based on the March 2012 groundwater sampling data.

PCP concentrations shown in red are above the PCP cleanup goal of 1 ppb (or 1 µg/L).



Wastes and Volumes

Approximately 252,000 cubic yards of soils exceeded the EPA Region 6 Human Health Medium-Specific Screening Levels for either arsenic, chromium, PCP, total creosote compounds, or dioxin and furans and were placed in the site RCRA vault during the emergency response action. The cleanup goal for PCP in the ground water is 1 part per billion (ppb).

Health Considerations

The results of the Five-Year Review indicate that the chosen remedy is protective of human health and the environment in the short term because there is no evidence that there is current exposure. The following deficiencies were noted that potentially impact the long-term protectiveness of the remedy.

- No Operation and Maintenance Plan for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) vault is in place.
- The RCRA vault is in immediate need of repair.
- No comprehensive long-term groundwater plan is in effect.
- Institutional controls, required by the Record of Decision, have not been implemented.

Record of Decision (ROD)

A Final Record of Decision was signed on September 29, 2003.

Community Involvement

Proposed Plan:	Issued July 18, 2003
Public Meeting:	July 31, 2003
Information Repository:	Montgomery County Memorial Library 104 I-45 North Conroe, TX 77301 (936) 442-7712

Site Contacts

EPA Remedial Project Manager:	Gary Baumgarten	214-665-6749
EPA Site Attorney:		
EPA Regional Public Liaison:	Donn Walters	214-665-6483
TCEQ Project Manager	Subhash Pal	512-239-4513

EPA Superfund Region 6 Toll Free Number: 1-800-533-3508